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DOCUMENT\_ID: 33458656  
INQNO: DOC9D 00229176  
DOCNO: TEL 008464 88.  
PRODUCER: BRUSSELS  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19880620  
TOR: 114556  
DOCPREC: O  
ORIGDATE: 198806201356  
MHFNO: 88 9316530  
DOCCLASS: U

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
2000

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HEADER  
OO RUEAIIB  
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
UTS8939  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUEHBS #8464/01 1721356  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 201356Z JUN 88  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3581  
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEBWJB/DOJ WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2787  
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0601  
BT

CONTROLS  
UNCLAS BRUSSELS 08464

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2007

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION: EX NAZI ROBERT VERBELEN  
CASE

REF: STATE 194715

FOR COORDINATION WITH <sup>ed</sup> State

1. THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REPORT STATING THAT  
BELGIAN CONVICTED WAR CRIMINAL ROBERT VERBELEN WORKED IN  
AUSTRIA FOR TEN YEARS AS A SECRET AGENT FOR THE U.S.  
ARMY RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE IN THE BELGIAN PRESS  
SATURDAY.

2. SAMPLE HEADLINES:  
-- "THE AMERICANS 'DISCOVER' SS VERBELEN'S PAST"

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(INDEPENDENT LE SOIR - CIRC. 213,000);  
-- "FROM FLEMISH SS TO U.S. SERVICES" (CONSERVATIVE LA MEUSE/LA LANTERNE - CIRC. 133,000);  
-- "A BELGIAN WAR CRIMINAL, AMERICAN AGENT" (CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE - CIRC. 90,000);  
-- "ROBERT VERBELEN SPIED FOR THE AMERICANS" (CONSERVATIVE LA DERNIERE HEURE - CIRC. 100,000);  
-- "'VERBELEN WAS A SPY FOR TEN YEARS IN AUSTRIA" (CATHOLIC HET BELANG VAN LIMBURG -CIRC. 98,000);  
-- "U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RELEASES REPORT: WAR CRIMINAL VERBELEN WAS U.S. SPY" (CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN -CIRC. 187,000).

3. CONSERVATIVE HET LAATSTE NIEUWS (CIRC. 304,000) CARRIED A FULL-PAGE REPORT ON THE CASE UNDER THE HEADING "AMERICANS ADMIT: ROBERT VERBELEN WORKED FOR CIA." THE PAPER WROTE THAT "THE PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. REPORT REOPENS ONE OF THE MOST PAINFUL WOUNDS FROM WORLD WAR II IN BELGIUM. A QUESTION HERE IS WHETHER THIS REOPENED 'VERBELEN CASE' CAN ESCALATE INTO A SECOND 'BARBIE CASE'" THE PAPER ALSO INTERVIEWED RELATIVES OF PEOPLE REPORTEDLY MURDERED BY VERBELEN AND HIS MEN DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION.

4. UNDER THE HEADING "LATE 'REVELATIONS' ABOUT VERBELEN", LIBERAL CATHOLIC DE STANDAARD (CIRC. 377,000) WROTE: "THE WIRE SERVICES COMPARE THE VERBELEN CASE WITH THAT OF **KLAUS BARBIE**....THEY RECALL THAT VERBELEN WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA BY A BELGIAN MILITARY COURT FOR THE MURDER OF 101 PEOPLE AND THE TORTURING OF U.S. AIR FORCE PILOTS. THEY FORGET TO MENTION, HOWEVER, THAT VERBELEN APPEARED BEFORE AN AUSTRIAN COURT FOR ALL THESE CRIMES AND WAS ACQUITTED IN 1965. THE WIRE SERVICES ALSO FORGET THAT ALREADY IN 1984, A JEWISH ORGANIZATION CLAIMED VERBELEN TORTURED TWO U.S. PILOTS. GENE DINGLEDINE, ONE OF THE U.S. PILOTS WHO VISITED BELGIUM AT THAT TIME, TESTIFIED THEN THAT THEY WERE NEVER TORTURED BY VERBELEN. THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT TODAY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE B'NAI B'RITH, DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THESE TESTIMONIES, AND THEREFORE CREATES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING DESIGNED FOR ATMOSPHERICS RATHER THAN (TO ESTABLISH) THE HISTORICAL TRUTH."

5. INDEPENDENT LE SOIR (CIRC. 213,000) WROTE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S ANNOUNCEMENT "CAUSED THE GREATEST SURPRISE IN BELGIUM WHERE THE USE OF VERBELEN BY THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AN ESTABLISHED FACT FOR SOME TEN YEARS....THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE BELGIAN SS FOR THE COUNTER-ESPIONAGE SERVICES OF THE U.S. ARMY ARE SHROUDED IN MYSTERY. VERBELEN, WHO PRESENTLY LIVES PEACEFULLY IN AUSTRIA...CLAIMED THAT IN 1955, WHEN AUSTRIA RECOVERED ITS INDEPENDENCE, HE SAVED IT FROM A COMMUNIST PLOT. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? (HISTORIAN) ALBERT DE JONGHE WONDERS WHAT WAS THE USEFULNESS FOR THE AMERICANS OF A MAN WHO WAS PRIMARILY AND PROBABLY EXCLUSIVELY A

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BLOODTHIRSTY, ROUGHNECK SOLDIER, THE LEADER OF A MOB OF THUGS. WAS HE AN INFILTRATION AGENT OR A DOUBLE AGENT?  
- "THE DISCLOSURE BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS. WHY THIS SUDDEN REVELATION ABOUT A KILLER, SINCE IT IS CONSTANT PRACTICE THAT REVELATIONS ABOUT ACTIVITIES BY THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE MADE ONLY EXCEPTIONALLY, AND FOR HIGH POLITICAL REASONS. WHY UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 08464

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION: EX NAZI ROBERT VERBELEN DID THE DAMS, THAT HAVE PROTECTED VERBELEN SO FAR, YIELD AT ONE POINT? IS THIS A LEAK, RESULTING FROM AN INTERNECINE WAR IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION?"

SNOW

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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